

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

“Thank goodness the white stuff has disappeared!” I said to the lady behind the till in the filling station. She glanced outside at the very heavy rain splashing down, which had been mainly responsible for despatching the snow so quickly. “Yes”, she laughed, “but we can cope with this!”

This conversation occurred only a few days after our January Monthly Meeting that was severely affected by the heavy snow which fell during the night before and continued during the morning of the meeting. Many of our members who set out for the meeting turned back as they discovered how difficult the road conditions had become. In the end, Roy Knight with his helpers was there to prepare the Hall and Dot Simmons with her helpers provided coffee or tea and biscuits to the 42 members who did attend (211 members attended the December Meeting).

Normal U3A business was postponed until the February Meeting while we were firstly transported to the warmth of islands in the Indian Ocean by a colourful video made and presented by Cynthia Fowler. Then, after a short coffee break, we were guided on a delightful walk along ‘The Ridgeway’ by John Tyler during his scheduled talk which was an interesting blend of local English History and Natural History, laced with John’s customary humour. We acknowledge John’s determination in making it through the snow to us from his home in Lacey Green.

During the December meeting I identified five areas in which members who are benefitting from our voluntary organisation can contribute to it:-

- Helpers to provide coffee/tea during the Meeting Break.
- Helpers to set up/dismantle the Hall equipment at Monthly Meetings.
- Helpers to register members arriving for the Monthly Meeting.
- Group Heads interested in setting up new Groups.
- New Committee Members (there are about three vacancies per year).

A Sheet for each category will be provided in the Hall for you to add your name. Alternatively please contact any Committee Member.

Apart from the brave snowdrops, as I write there is not yet much sign of Spring! But we know it is coming and I hope that you will take the opportunity to benefit from the full program of AVU3A activities already planned for 2010. In particular, I suggest that you book up early for the large program of bus outings, theatre trips and walks.

Alex Paterson

The Bowls Group Continue Their Travels - South America 2009

Some Highlights *from Mary Rogers*



Just to prove that they did play some bowls!

Six of the Bowls group together with 2 non playing partners set off in October not only to play bowls but to do a lot of sightseeing in Brazil and Argentina. It's hard to know where to begin, we did so much. There was **Sao Paulo** where we visited ornate churches and not only played Bowls at their magnificent clubs but were invited to a 25th Wedding celebration. Suitably dressed as Gangsters we enjoyed a Brazilian welcome - a great evening. Then to **Rio de Janeiro** – the well known sights, Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Christ Statue, Copocabana Beach. We even took tea in the famous Colombo Tea Rooms, but we also saw the other side when we were privileged to visit Ruija Soupa a charitable project situated at the very top of a favella (slum area). Taking buses and with a local guide we climbed the many steps through the favella to the nursery that enables the mothers to work and leave their children in a safe place and also give them a healthy start in life.

When we asked about the life

expectancy in a favella and were told for males it was just 26 years, - Aids or stabbings the usual causes. It puts things into context! We played bowls at the weekends and enjoyed the wonderful steaks and wines between games - beware the local drink Caiparini! While in Rio we took a trip to the Palace at Petropolis—a breathtaking ride through mountains on very curvy roads, fortunately one way. We ate lunch in a private house where mother cooks and son waits on; a typical Brazilian meal. After 12 days it was time to move on to Argentina, Brazil had been great fun but is not a cheap country to visit.



...and they obviously found the whole experience stimulating!

All pictures from Mary Rogers

Next **Buenos Aires** – city of the Tango and the district of La Boco, the tomb of Eva Peron, Gardens, the Pink Palace, the famous Tulip statue and shopping with more reasonable prices. We took the train to Tigre, a journey equal in distance from Aylesbury to London cost about 50p return! We sailed on the Tigre river and saw all the houses reached only by boat; another way of life. Of course we played bowls at weekends and enjoyed yet more of the great hospitality and friendship. On to **El Calafate – Patagonia**. We broke our stay in B.A. to fly down to

Patagonia near the Antarctic, a small almost one street town but a fine hotel. From here we visited the Morena glacier whose surface is larger than the whole of B.A., it is awe inspiring to just sit and listen to its cracks and movements. Next day we took a boat trip on Lake Argentino although global warming had melted many of the usual icebergs, Pink flamingos and Condors were seen in abundance for the bird watchers.



This mischievous Coattee wanted to share the Group's refreshments

Iguassu – time now to fly up to the Falls rightly rated one of the modern wonders of the world. Situated on the borders of both countries we spent one day exploring from the Brazilian side and one on the Argentinian side; with over 270 falls there is plenty to see. The Falls never fail to thrill and are different each time you visit, exotic birds, butterflies, coatie, rainbows add to the beauty and wonder of it all and you can take a boat and actually ride under some of the falls if you don't mind getting WET. With the temperature in the 40's you soon get dry. Another day a chance to visit the Itaipu Dam and also take a trip into Paraguay and get another stamp on your passport! All too soon it was time to head for home, the 31 days for those who did the whole trip had gone by too fast but we had so many memories and experiences to get us through the winter.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

Poetry (2) Group:

While looking at the writings of Women Poets recently, members came across the following verse written by Maya Angelou, and thought it might make a good 'war cry' for U3A's everywhere:

When you see me sitting quietly,
Like a sack left on the shelf,
Don't think I need your chattering.
I'm listening to myself.
Hold! Stop! Don't pity me!
Hold! Stop your sympathy!
Understanding if you've got it,
Otherwise I'll do without it

When my bones are stiff and aching,
And my feet won't climb the stair,
I will only ask one favour:
Don't bring me no rocking chair.

When you see me walking, stumbling,
Don't study and get it wrong.
'Cause tired don't mean lazy
And every goodbye ain't gone.
I'm the same person I was back then,
A little less hair, a little less chin,
A lot less lungs, and much less wind,
But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in.

FROM THE COMPUTER USERS (CUSS):

Here are a few web links you might find interesting if you haven't got any computer problems to worry about and it is too cold for gardening.

If you imagine Quack Medicine as something out of a Wild West Movie think again! Have a play with the "Quackometer". This is a little computer routine that attempts to debunk some of the outrageous medical claims that are advertised on the web. It works by sifting through the words used by a web site and awarding a "Canard" for every dubious claim. (*The Canard is the internationally recognised SI unit for Quackery.*) Give it a try and see what you think. All you need to do is copy and paste the URL (that's the text in the bar at the top of the screen) into the "Quackometer" box and away you go.
<http://www.quackometer.net/default.php>

Here are some I did earlier. I tried it on the UK Distance Learning College - awarded 10 Canards

<http://www.ukdistancelearningcollege.com/index.asp>

The Society of Homoeopaths - also awarded 10 Canards

<http://www.homeopathy-soh.org/about-homeopathy/>

Alternative Medicine - awarded 10 Canards

<http://www.alternativemedicine.co.uk/>

Natural Health Information Centre - awarded 8 Canards

<http://www.natural-health-information-centre.com/iodine.html>

The Net Doctor UK Advice on chrome and iodine supplements - awarded none

<http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/ate/weightandnutrition/203892.html>

The NHS Cold and Flu Advice also got None as you would hope !

<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/Sat/MiniSAT/Topics/ColdsAndFlu/BeforeWeBegin.aspx>

The link to the "Quackometer" comes from a respected web site, Sense About Science which you may also find interesting. <http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/index.php>

Ron Meadowcroft

PICTURES FROM OUR PHOTO ALBUM



A London Walks Group at Victoria Square taken by Ron Meadowcroft



Rodmarton Manor—see our April Outings in the Diary



From Our Bowls Group
What was Mary doing here?
A rain dance or making a
very rude gesture ?



Xmas Lunch for the History Group at
Aylesbury College
by Ron Meadowcroft

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

The Cribbage/Domino Group: Jackpot Response to Equipment Appeal!

When Cyril Reed appealed for someone to make a couple of domino peg-boards, something seemingly difficult to obtain in the shops these days, little did he realise what a response he would get. Out of the attics came peg-boards and domino sets—all of which were gratefully received and will be put into service and kept in the permanent ‘property box’.

Notably, Dave Walduck’s Mum Freda, the group’s very favourite cribbage player now approaching her 100th birthday and regrettably no longer able to attend, donated a pristine fully marked up peg-board. Next Shirley Humber turned out a rarity; a set of dominoes in a combined peg-board box. The daddy- of them all was a peg-board produced as a promotional item especially for the pub trade by Players Cigarettes. This was rescued by Eddie Clifford from ‘The Lamb’ at Great Missenden where his family had connections for generations before it closed. What a story that could tell, but it’s not over yet.

At the same time another member Allan Cooper volunteered to make a couple of boards. Taking Eddie’s sample with him Cyril called on Allan and was shown some of his intricate model engineering models. “I knew immediately that I had hit the jackpot” said Cyril. Using his own materials, “Just a bit of old oak I had lying around”, Allan produced two superb replicas of the Players Cigarette model.



Now the Cribbage/Domino Group is equipped for a surge in membership. There’s only one thing for it—get along to the group meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at the Tennis and Squash Social Club on the Wendover Road in Aylesbury. Why not go along and give it a go? For more information contact Cyril Reed or Rowena Auger.

Allan Cooper’s peg-board and the template: Photo from Rowena Auger

Computer Users Support Service - CUSS:

From February the CUSS group sessions took on a quite different form which it is hoped will be of interest and help to both novice and experienced PC users. Each meeting will now be dedicated to you, and what you want to be able to do with your PC. To achieve this requires that those who come either have a good idea of what they want to achieve or a willingness to work one-to-one with them and for both to be prepared to experiment—there are many ways to solve problems and not much we can break, so take the opportunity to ‘play’.



We will try to ensure that there are a number of people at each meeting who know enough to help you but there may be occasions when cover may be a little thin, or your interests lie outside our experience or the capabilities of the Grange School PC’s (for which we apologise in advance). So this will not be a ‘class’ and you are not committed to regular attendance but it should be a good way to become familiar with the PC and what it can do for you. We do ask, however, that you register as a member of the group and advise us if you not intend to attend on a particular week. There will be a list available at monthly meetings for registration or this may be done by e-mail at CUSS@avu3a.org.uk

Some of you will already be aware of another CUSS service, the PC Question and Answer mailing list U3AAVCUSS@freelists.org This will continue to be available for any member to pose PC related questions. There are no guarantees but someone usually has an answer or otherwise useful response!

Mike Bean

MEMORIES OF ALANYA:

Alanya is a modern beach resort in Turkey and an ancient Seljuk city. Its prominent feature is its mighty rock which juts out Gibraltar like into the Mediterranean Sea. Atop the rock is a red brick crenulated fortress and on either side—magnificent sandy beaches. In 44 B.C. Roman General Mark Anthony gave this entire region to his beloved Cleopatra, and in the 13th Century it was captured by Sultan Aladdin who established his summer capital there.



The Red Tower at
Alanya

There are many places of interest to visit the Red Tower, Dim River, Alanya Castle, Manargat Waterfalls and a local Museum. A drive through the mountains takes one to many places of interest. We also enjoyed a day trip in a comfortable boat with freshly prepared lunch. There was plenty of choice for the shoppers but they had to bargain hard! The locals were very good at this, but it is a new experience for the first time visitor. The local people knew very little English but we got on very well. There were three beaches (Cleopatra being the favoured one) and a variety of restaurants serving food from different regions, and catering for many tastes.

A one week's holiday was over very soon, and we were home again to look forward to our U3A activities after the long summer break.

Pushpa Mirchandani

WALKING IN LONDON:

Although group leader Norman McRae was not with us during 2009 because of ill health we still



The Cutty Sark at
Greenwich

made several visits with the assistance of Ray Halsey and Alan Robinson. We walked around Ladbrook Grove; Highgate, Old Street to Waterloo; Sloane Square and Chelsea; Greenwich, Wimbledon and Victoria (see the photograph on page 4).

Preparations are now in hand for 2010 with our first expedition travelling to St.. John's Wood. This group is very

popular and the list on the notice board gets filled up very quickly, but please don't be put off if it is full by the time you get to it! Enter your name on the Reserve List. Someone always seems to drop out as the date approaches, and we may be able to fit you in.



We try not to lose people on the Underground — though it is sometimes a close call!

It is also essential that you let the organisers know if you are unable to walk, in order to give us adequate time to find a substitute.

Bill Gibbins



AS ALWAYS—A VERY WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Mary and Stan Goss; Ivy and Doug Cooper; Reg Trew; Stephen Goldby; Elaine Cresswell; Roger Fox and Beryl Kinder

We hope that you enjoy your time with us.



Looking for the U3A January Meeting ?

Well it wasn't quite as bad as this but..... By the time that this newsletter is printed in March the bad winter weather will, hopefully, be nothing but a memory. Congratulations to the intrepid members who braved snow and ice (not to mention the Horse and Jockey road works) to attend the January monthly meeting. With a ten minute journey taking 55 minutes, we were delighted to be able start our meeting with 28 members present. Fortunately Cynthia Fowler had the foresight to bring along some of her travel slides—just in case, as had the Chairman. By the time she began her presentation on the islands of the Indian Ocean our numbers had increased to 42.

Then miracle of miracles, our Guest Speaker John Tyler arrived, having battled through the snow and roadworks, all the way from Lacey Green to treat us to a memorable illustrated talk on walking the Ridgeway. We managed to forget the cold as we learned something of its ancient and modern and natural history with some amusing anecdotes thrown in. Those of us who had braved the snow had our reward with two excellent talks, no queue for car park spaces and no difficulties in finding a seat. I think it could be counted as a very successful meeting in spite of everything!

The Editor (who managed to get there)

OUT AND ABOUT:

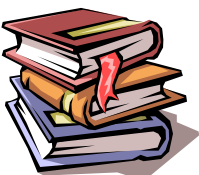
This Group had its first meeting of 2010 at the end of January when 18 people turned up—the highest number since the group began almost a year ago. We had some lively discussions on various outings which members would like to participate in during the coming year. These included walks through snowdrop parks, visiting Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel; a visit to the 'Art, Design and a Taste of Summer' event being held over the May Bank Holiday, and a number of others. Following the meeting 14 of those attending enjoyed a meal at the Aylesbury Golf Club— and voted it enjoyable and extremely good value for money. Following on from this one of those present volunteered to arrange a monthly lunch to experience different national cuisines.



The Out and About Group—
on this occasion all ladies—
enjoy their meal at Aylesbury
Golf Club
Photo from Jean Coussens

Jean Coussens

READERS CIRCLE: No.2



We would like to encourage everybody to curl up on a comfy chair with a drink (alcoholic or otherwise) possibly a box of chocs. and enjoy a good book. Our Group meets on a Wednesday and we all contribute to choosing a book for each month - either recommended in the media or one of our member's particular likes. Usually in August when there is no meeting, we enjoy a day out exploring one of the locations which a book has described ending with lunch or we may just lunch out and chat about our various reads. Most importantly we quite often read a book which normally would not have crossed our minds to read. Sometimes we go to old favourites. New publications are also read if they appeal. Very occasionally a DVD of a book made into a film is enjoyed. Hopefully a new Group will be started in the future as numbers are swelling and any gentlemen wishing to join would be warmly welcomed. There's got to be some guys out there who read books!!"

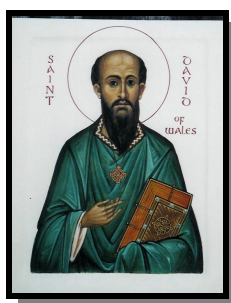
Brenda Daniel

MIND BOGGLING STATISTICS!

Every few months our Membership Secretary Jim McKay sends out a revised membership list which you might think could be probably one of the duller U3A documents you could ever get to read. But is it? For example did you know that Jean is the most popular female name? You didn't? Well here is a little table of statistics taken from that membership list

Jean	13	Pat/ Patricia	12
Margaret	12	Michael	10
Joan	9	David	9
Ann/Anne	8	Peter	8
Sue/Susan	8	Barbara	6
Betty	6	Brenda	6
Brian	5	John	5

What does this tell us about our members? Jean was most popular in 1928 when it ranked at number 12; today it is way down below 900. (Jean Harlow was the platinum blonde film star of the 1930's). Patricia was the third most popular name in the 30's and 40's yet today it is down below 500. Margaret was extremely popular in the middle ages and was 6th in the twenties after Princess Margaret was christened then declined until today it ranks about 120th.



So what about the boys? Michael ranked at 50 up to the 1940's but has steadily increased in popularity and is now at no. 2. David, the Patron Saint of Wales, has always maintained his popularity being in the 20th position in Victorian times and up to 12th today.

So what is our most unusual member's name—possibly Pushpa an Indian name meaning 'flower' or blossom'. Maybe it is Ria which is Hebrew meaning 'bitter' and is also the Latin form of Mary.

Of course if you look at the surnames there are some really interesting examples. How about the Junipers or Tomasinas, Cafferatas or Walducks. I wonder where these names originate. What about the interesting Polish names such as 'Salewski and Susulowsky which I find so difficult to pronounce. There has to be a good story there—possibly best left for someone else to explore.



Ron Meadowcroft

WHO SAYS WE SIT AT HOME ALL DAY?

Participants in a recent radio discussion on the raising of the retirement age remarked that if people retired at 60 or 65 they 'just sit at home all day doing nothing'. When I had allowed my temperature to return to normal I thought that they can never have heard of U3A or all those other organisations which fill our retirement time to overflowing. So I thought I would do a straw poll at the February meeting about people's holidays as Pushpa had already submitted a piece about her Turkish holiday. I went around the world in 10 minutes!

Kerala in Southern India had impressed with its coconut palms and tea plantations. The Ashtons had enjoyed a short cruise on a converted rice barge. Jamaica was a lush green Island with perpetual sunshine, and although part of it could be dangerous, the tourist areas were not. Agadir in Morocco was seen as very westernised until one got out to the small fishing villages. In Eesomia fish was caught and landed on the quayside and cooked in the open air on small stalls. (One could have wine or beer with it but it had to be served in coffee cups in order not to offend local sensibilities). Others had snorkelled in the Red Sea with its wonderful coral reefs and colourful fish; there had been tours of South African battlefields and safaris; train journeys between Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington in New Zealand where the pampas grass growing wild along the rail tracks had impressed and Australia had not been left out with temperatures of 25 in Perth and 31 in Sydney (and all done in a fortnight!). There were other train journeys too—to Bavaria with its fairy tale castles—using no fewer than 7 trains to be exact—where memories included 'Mad' King Ludwig's castle in Neuschwanstein and the highest mountain the Zugspitze where one could see Italy, France, Austria and Germany all at the same time. In Thailand a member opted for an exciting elephant ride through the tropical bush on the Island of Koh Samui. Members of Aylesbury Vale, Mid Bucks and Aston Clinton U3A's joined with Wendover who had organised a visit to Gran Canaria. I could mention Tunisia, Florida, Barbados, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and the Panama Canal, but I don't have enough space.



From the 'Freedom of the Seas' ...to

Memorable voyages included a transatlantic journey on the very elegant Queen Mary with its 14 decks (easy to get lost); a scenic Norwegian Fjords exploration and a Mediterranean Cruise on what was at that time the largest cruise ship in existence, 'Freedom of the Seas'. But don't think that our own lovely country was neglected. Gay Titley has her own much loved narrow boat, and says that there is nowhere lovelier than England's canals. Foxton Locks is a wonderful location to spend the day and one can always moor on the Welford Arm which is right opposite the local pub! There were walks on the Yorkshire Moors; rides on the North Yorks. Railway; fossil hunting at Sandsend; castles and cliffs in Northumberland and bird watching in Norfolk (with a sighting of a rare Snow Bunting). Lots of holidays enjoyed with grandchildren too. The snow had its effect. A member flying to Scotland for a family reunion arrived at Luton Airport to find all planes cancelled. Anxious not to miss out she hared off to Milton Keynes station, caught the train and eventually arrived a considerable time later. Fortunately she was able to return by plane but was amused to see that the return train fare was only 1p more than the single fare had been—the mysteries of



.... ..A peaceful journey on a canal narrow boat.

British Rail.

We mustn't forget Tony Simmons in Colombia as an I.P.C. Technical Observer for the Junior Pan-Am Games—doing radio interviews through an interpreter which he will never hear and as he says 'feeling perfectly safe despite all the guns on show'. In October he will be in New Delhi for the Commonwealth Games, and has promised us a full report later.

So you see, we have no time to sit at home all day!

SPEAKERS CORNER



APRIL 14th : Space and Silence: Vermeer - Susanne Carr

Our Speaker is an eminent Art Historian who lectures at Oxford University, The National Gallery and the Tate Gallery. Her talk investigates the harmonious, still and alluring domestic interiors of Vermeer (1632-75) set in the context of 17th Century Dutch paintings and the creation of Holland as an independent country. We shall see nearly all of his estimated 35 paintings, each one more beguiling than the last.

MAY 12th : Tsavo West, Amboseli, and Samburu - Nigel Glover-Wright

Nigel has a passion for East Africa and its wildlife. He is also an expert photographer. In this presentation we shall see his favourite of the big cats and how nature ensures the survival of the fittest. From the lush vegetation of the Tsavo West game reserve, we are immersed in the dust of Amboseli, and then move on to Samburu, Nigel's favourite part of Kenya.

JUNE 9th : Florence - Her History and Treasures - Lt Col David Gilbert

Florence is said to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was important in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance for trade and finance, but especially for its art and architecture. Lt Col David Gilbert has been acquainted with Florence for over half a century, starting when he visited as a student studying Italian and continuing through his varied career to the present time.

CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP 2

With interest in politics seemingly at an all time low, members of this group will inevitably be discussing the pros & cons of the options placed before the Country at the forthcoming General Election.

New members are invited to come along and just listen or give their 'take' on this or any other topical subject raised. These need not be too serious as we feel some humour is essential !!

Meetings are from 2.35 to 4 pm on alternate Tuesdays of each month at Aylesbury Grammar School. Exact dates can be obtained from Jean McKay. For a warm welcome and more information contact her on 01296 580787

Jim McKay

RECORDER ENSEMBLE:

This group has been pleased to have been given 2 Trebles and 1 Descant Instrument, along with a supply of music books. We would like to have more treble players, and would be happy for potential members to take one home and learn some basics, if they are reluctant to start off with no previous experience.

I promise you that we have vowed never to perform in public, so please don't be shy, come along and give it a try !

Pat Kuryba



Although it seems like a long time ago, our Christmas Collection for the newly re-born 'Meadowcroft Munchkins' nursery group raised £300 towards their Christmas Party. Thanks to all of you who continue to donate so generously.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 17th March: Coffee Morning. Join other members, especially if you are a new member—for a coffee and chat at 10.30 a.m. The Broad Leys Public House, Wendover Road, Aylesbury

Thursday 25th March: Outing to Kew Gardens with option to visit the National Archives. Kew Gardens inc. admission £22; Coach only for National Archives £12.50

Tuesday 6th April: Gentle Walk on Coombe Hill. Park in the N.T. Car park at 11.15 a.m. and meet at the main gate. Followed by pub lunch for those interested.

Wednesday 14th April: Theatre Group matinee at Milton Keynes Theatre; departing by coach direct from the April Meeting at Meadowcroft at 12.15 (or from Jansel Square 12.30) “Enjoy” - a play by Alan Bennett with the original West End cast. Cost £25 inc. transport.

Sunday 18th April: A second gentle walk, this time to Waddesdon Manor and the only one on a Sunday. We meet at the front of the Manor by the Ticket Kiosk at 11.15 a.m. and walk the grounds to view the daffodils in bloom. Lunch afterwards in the Manor Garden Centre.

Thursday 22nd April: Coach trip to Cirencester and Rodmarton Manor. Full details later.

Tuesday 4th May: Gentle Walk in Wendover Woods at Bluebell time. Share transport wherever possible as parking fee is quite expensive, and meet at central services. Lunch afterwards at the Café in the Woods.

Tuesday 1st June: Visit the Wendover Wild Flower Meadow on the Heron Path near the Clock Tower. Meet at 11.15 a.m. in the Public Car Park off the High Street where, at the time of publication parking is free for one hour.

Wednesday 16th June: Another Theatre Matinee at Milton Keynes; this time to see an Agatha Christie Play ‘Witness for the Prosecution’. Cost £24 inc. transport. Full details to follow

Friday 25th to Wednesday 30th June: Harrogate and North Yorkshire Study Tour.

Tuesday 20th July: Coach trip to Berkeley Castle and Jenner Museum—to be confirmed.

Thursday 12th August: Visit Eastbourne International Air Show. £22.00 inc. fare and a reserved outside viewing seat which will be yours for the day.

Thursday 2nd September: Theatre Matinee with lunch at The Mill at Sonning: ‘Spring and Port Wine’. Inclusive Ticket £36 plus coach fare to be advised.

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th September: The local Walks group has arranged a walking weekend in the New Forest based on Bournemouth. Non Walkers are welcome—space permitting. Full details from Jean Ashton.

THE GARDENING GROUP:

This large group now has several Summer outings planned. On Tuesday 13th April members will travel by car to Preston Bissett Nurseries in Preston Bisset meeting at Jansel Square at 2.30 p.m. to arrange lifts. There will be a talk, and tea and cakes. Several other visits are planned and further details will follow but you can put the dates in your diaries now.

Tuesday 11th May: Coach trip to Cliveden (National Trust). There is a restaurant and refreshment kiosk. Coach will leave Jansel Square at 10.00 a.m. returning at 4.00 p.m. to arrive in Aylesbury at 5.00 p.m.

Tuesday 25th May: The annual plant sale when members and others can bring 'spares' from their own gardens. A charge of £1 will be made and refreshments will be provided.



RHS Hyde Hall

Tuesday 15th June: Visit to the Royal Horticultural Society's Hyde Hall in Essex. Leaving Jansel Square at 9.15 a.m. arriving back in Aylesbury at approx. 6.00 p.m.



Tuesday 6th July: To Capel Manor, Enfield leaving at 9.15 a.m. and arriving home at 6.00 p.m. Restaurant on site.

Further details of all these events and costings will be announced later.

Capel Manor Gardens

Barbara Fraser

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP:

Monthly meetings held in Stone Methodist Chapel, Eythrop Road at 10 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise announced. Projects for the next few months:

March 25th All day outing to Kew Gardens;

April 21st Exhibition of photographs taken at Kew;

May 19th Visit to Ascott House – meeting at 2.00 p.m. in the car park;

May 19th Exhibit Ascott House photographs.

Derek Fowle

Deadline for copy for the Summer edition is **May 12th** to be sent to:

Shirley Stokes, 9 Windsor Road, Aylesbury HP21 7JG Tel: 01296 392726

or e mail: treveris9@btinternet.com